



## *City of Ridgecrest* **Police Department**

100 W. California Ave. • Ridgecrest, CA 93555 • 760.499.5100

RONALD N. STRAND, Chief of Police

### **Press Release**

**DATE OF EVENT:** 11/6/ 2014

**TYPE OF EVENT:** Carjacking / Kidnapping

**LOCATION:** 200 block E. Ridgecrest Bl.

**CHARGES:** PC 215(a), PC 207(a), PC 273a(a), PC 243(c)(2), PC 69

**SUSPECT(S):** Leland Wright age 28

At around 8:00 PM Officers of the Ridgecrest Police Department were dispatched to the 200 Blk. of E. Ridgecrest Bl. regarding a vehicle theft in progress. During their investigation it was found that Leland Wright drove his blue Dodge Caravan to the area of Loewen's Appliance Store. Wright parked the van, got out, and then entered the passenger door of Roger Loewen's vehicle as he was leaving, telling Loewen to "Shut up and drive off." Wright was holding a 1 year old child at the time. Loewen stated he feared for his safety and jumped out of his vehicle and ran. Wright then drove Loewen's vehicle down E. Ridgecrest Bl. where he stopped.

Wright, still holding the infant, then ran into the intersection of E. Ridgecrest Bl. and S. Gold Canyon St where he got into the back seat of Bryan Sims car, while Sims was stopped at the intersection there. Sims told Wright to get out of his car and Wright refused, telling Sims to drive off. At this time, Wright noticed the police arriving and told Sims "I need your help drive off."

When Officers arrived, they met Wright in Sims vehicle and safely removed the child from Wright. The infant was not injured. Wright was ordered out of Sims vehicle and he refused, he then became combative and resisted arrest. Officers used a Baton and Taser to gain Sims' compliance and he was taken into custody. While placing Wright in a patrol car for transport he continued being combative. After the arrest, a knife that belonged to Wright was found where the struggle occurred. Wright told Officers that he ate Bath Salts and "huffed" Crazy Glue earlier in the day.

Wright was transported to Ridgecrest Regional Hospital where he continued being combative with officers and hospital staff, at one point biting an officer on the hand causing a minor injury. Wright was treated for minor injuries then transported to CRF-Bakersfield for booking.

**RONALD N. STRAND, Chief of Police**  
**PREPARED BY:** Sgt. Ron Bell